



## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM



The Episcopal

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

917 Pond Road, Loudon, TN 37774  
865-986-2390

[www.episcopalloudon.com](http://www.episcopalloudon.com)  
#episcopalloudon



## GOOD MORNING!

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GLORIFYING GOD BY

REFRESHING SOULS | BRIDGING COMMUNITIES | ENGAGING PEOPLE IN SERVICE

We're so glad you chose to be here at Resurrection today.

Whether you're here for the first time, or are a life-long member, Resurrection is a hopeful, healing, transformation-minded kind of place, a place where everyone is welcome and can grow their relationship with God and with one another.

If you are here for the *first time* (or if you just haven't gotten around to it yet), please fill out a pew card and put it in the offering plate to let us know you were here. To receive our weekly email bulletin, be sure to include your email address. And let us know if you would like to connect with our parish life and ministries; we're happy to help you find your spot!

Our services follow *The Book of Common Prayer*, the red book in your pew rack. If you'd like to use the book to follow the service, we begin on page 355. Unless otherwise marked, our hymns are from the *Hymnal 1982*, the blue books in the pew rack. A hymn noted "S-xxx" is part of the service music, found at the front of the hymnal, appearing before the regular congregational hymns begin. For example, S-280 (*The Gloria*) is found before hymn 1.

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To learn more about Resurrection, check out [www.episcopalloudon.com](http://www.episcopalloudon.com), email us at [office@episcopalloudon.com](mailto:office@episcopalloudon.com), or find us on Facebook or Instagram.

Fill out a pew card or email [office@episcopalloudon.com](mailto:office@episcopalloudon.com) to be placed on on the weekly email, *Parish Tidings*, for the latest information from Resurrection.

If you can't make it here in person, join us at 10:30, live on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/episcopalloudon](https://facebook.com/episcopalloudon).



# Holy Eucharist, Rite II

## The Word of God

**Prelude** *(only at 10:30)*

*Just as I Am*

*William B. Bradbury*

*Guest Flautist: RaNaye Dreier*

**Entrance Hymn** *(only at 10:30)*

*There's a wideness in God's mercy*

**Hymnal 470**

*All standing*

**BCP 355**

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

*All* **Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**The Gloria** *(Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30)*

**Hymnal S-280**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### The Collect for the Season of Creation

Lord of all the universe, through your incarnation in Christ you identified with the created order and proclaimed your love for the world; assist us through your Son to respect and cherish the earth and all its creatures, through Jesus Christ who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Anglican Church of Canada*

## The Lessons

### The First Lesson: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

*Lector* A reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem: A hot wind comes from me out of the bare heights in the desert toward my poor people, not to winnow or cleanse—a wind too strong for that. Now it is I who speak in judgment against them.

“For my people are foolish, they do not know me;  
they are stupid children, they have no understanding.  
They are skilled in doing evil, but do not know how to do good.”

I looked on the earth, and lo, it was waste and void;  
and to the heavens, and they had no light.

I looked on the mountains, and lo, they were quaking,  
and all the hills moved to and fro.

I looked, and lo, there was no one at all, and all the birds of the air had fled.

I looked, and lo, the fruitful land was a desert,  
and all its cities were laid in ruins before the LORD, before his fierce anger.

For thus says the LORD:

The whole land shall be a desolation; yet I will not make a full end.

Because of this the earth shall mourn, and the heavens above grow black;  
for I have spoken, I have purposed;

I have not relented nor will I turn back.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.  
*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 14

BCP 598

*Lector*        We will read the Psalm responsively by half verse.

1 The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” \*

**All are corrupt and commit abominable acts;  
there is none who does any good.**

2 The LORD looks down from heaven upon us all, \*

**to see if there is any who is wise,  
if there is one who seeks after God.**

3 Every one has proved faithless;

**all alike have turned bad; \*  
there is none who does good; no, not one.**

4 Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers \*

**who eat up my people like bread  
and do not call upon the LORD?**

5 See how they tremble with fear, \*

**because God is in the company of the righteous.**

6 Their aim is to confound the plans of the afflicted, \*

**but the LORD is their refuge.**

7 Oh, that Israel’s deliverance would come out of Zion! \*

**when the LORD restores the fortunes of his people,  
Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.**

## The Second Lesson: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

*Lector*        A reading from Paul’s letter to Timothy.

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand*

**Sequence Hymn** (*only at 10:30*)

*O love, how deep, how broad, how high (verses 1-3)*

**Hymnal 448**

**The Gospel Lesson: Luke 15:10**

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Amen.

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sequence Hymn** (*only at 10:30*)

*O love, how deep, how broad, how high (verses 4-6)*

**Hymnal 448**

**Sermon**

The Rev. Dr. Marc Strong

**The Nicene Creed**

**BCP 358**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,**



eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### The Prayers of the People, Form III

BCP 387

*Please assume a posture of prayer, whether standing, sitting, or kneeling as able.  
Please add those intercessions and thanksgivings on your heart, silently or  
aloud, at the appropriate points in the prayers.*

*Lector*

Holy God, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation;  
**That we may use its resources rightly in the service of others,  
and to your honor and glory.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest.  
**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others:  
**Brenda B.; Jackie C.; David H.; Robyn; Kathleen; Jenon; and all your  
children who suffer the effects of war, oppression, or natural disasters.**

*Silence. The People may add their own petitions.*

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

*Celebrant* Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, “Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you.” Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Confession of Sin

BCP 359

*Continuing in a posture of prayer, we will hold a moment of silence for individual, silent confessions before the priest leads us into the words of corporate confession.*

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Celebrant and People*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;**



**that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

**BCP 360**

*Standing as you are able.*

*Celebrant* May the peace of Christ be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us show one another a sign of God's peace.

## **The Holy Communion**

*Celebrant* Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2a*

### **Offertory Anthem**

*For the Splendor of Creation (THAXTED)*

*Organ & Flute Duet: RaNaye Dreier*

*The Celebrant invites the people's offerings.*

### **Doxology** *(spoken at 8:00; sung at 10:30)*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*1 Chronicles 29:14*

*Celebrant* For all things come from you, O Lord;  
*People* **and of your own have we given you.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

From *Eucharistic Prayers*, Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher.  
Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016

*(Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30)*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you,  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* Hearts and minds and souls and voices  
we lift in thanks and praise to you,  
Lord God of heaven and earth.  
You made the earth as a playground for us to enjoy your glory,  
and yet we consistently turn your abundance into our scarcity,  
your elegance into our meanness,  
and your simplicity into our corruption.  
In Noah you drew all the goodness of your creation into one ark,  
and in Moses you placed the law of love  
into the ark of your covenant.  
In Christ you turned the wood of manger and cross  
into the ark of your salvation.  
And so we rejoice to thank you, singing, with all the company of heaven,  
the hymn of your unending praise.

**Sanctus** *(Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30)*

**Hymnal S-125**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant* God our rock, to trust in you is to build a house on solid ground  
that will never shift through wind and rain.  
You make and renew your church through your word of life.  
Send your Holy Spirit upon your people,  
that all who eat and drink in your name  
may behold you face to face and taste and see that you are good.  
By that same Spirit come down upon these gifts of bread and wine,  
that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.  
who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks,  
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,

‘Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.’

After supper he took the cup.

Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
‘Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant* Renewing God, after half a year of flood  
you brought the ark of hope to solid ground  
and gave your creation new birth.

Heal your stricken world today,  
that the groaning of the soil, the skies, and the seas  
may foretell the greater glory you have prepared  
for your time of eternal covenant grace.

As you justify your children by faith,  
uphold all who face injustice and neglect and cruelty.

Hasten that day when your new heaven and new earth  
will engulf the distress and disappointment  
and destruction of your people,  
and you will be all in all, everlasting God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**AMEN.** (*Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30*)

**Hymnal S-146**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy Name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

# The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread and a period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Alleluia, Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

**Fraction Hymn** (*Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30*)

**Hymnal S-161**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
Grant us peace.**

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*We encourage you to come forward to receive Holy Communion as you feel comfortable. Remain seated, until the usher directs you forward to the communion rail. After receiving communion, return to your seat by the side aisle. so that traffic flows one way.*

*If you would prefer communion be brought to you at your seat, please let an usher know and, as always, we will be happy to do so. If you prefer not to receive communion, please cross your arms over your chest as a sign that you prefer a blessing.*

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words:*

**The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.**

**The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. Amen.**

**Communion Hymn** (*only at 10:30*)

*Breathe on me, Breath of God*

**Hymnal 508**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All* **Loving God,  
we give you thanks  
for restoring us in your image  
and nourishing us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.**

*From Enriching Our Worship*

Now send us forth  
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;  
that we may proclaim your love to the world  
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

## Announcements | Blessings of Birthdays and Anniversaries

### The Blessing

**Post-Communion Hymn** *(only at 10:30)*  
*Amazing Grace*

**Hymnal 671**

### The Dismissal

From Church of England, Diocese of Guildford

*Celebrant* Tend the earth, care for God's good creation, and bring forth the fruits of righteousness. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia.

*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Postlude** *(only at 10:30)*  
*Consecrate my life to Thee, O Lord (HOLLINGSIDE)*

Flowers today are given to the Glory of God.

Special music is given today to the Glory of God  
by guest flautist RaNaye Dreier.

# Parish Announcements, Prayers, & Thanksgivings

## Friendship Kitchen is ready to cook!

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help cook! We provide meals to approximately 100 Loudon County residents. **We will see you tomorrow from 12:00 - 4:00** to cook beans, make coleslaw, and assemble plates for delivery.

## Resurrection Men

Resurrection Men's group will next meet on Saturday, September 20, at 9 a.m. in the parish hall. We will be discussing Job, the second lesson from the book *10 Men of the Bible*. As always, a light breakfast and lively conversation will be had. Please reach out to Mark Hennes at [mhennes81@icloud.com](mailto:mhennes81@icloud.com) with any questions.

## Daughters of the King

The ladies will meet downstairs in the large conference room at 9:30 a.m.

## Diocesan Women's Day Conference

Saturday, Oct. 25, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Church of the Ascension, Knoxville

More information is available at [dioet.org](http://dioet.org).

The Episcopal Church Women of East Tennessee is hosting a women's day conference for all women of the diocese. The day will feature a screening of *The Philadelphia Eleven*, Eucharist celebrated by Bishop Brian Cole, lunch, and the annual Episcopal Church Women business meeting. This day conference is open to all women of the diocese, including members of Episcopal Church Women and Daughters of the King. Come hear how we can support the education of young women, sustain the ministry of women across the diocese, and build relationships that empower women across the globe.

The cost to attend is \$20, which includes your lunch and refreshments throughout the

## Our Parish Prayer List

Brenda B.; Jackie C.; David H.;  
Robyn; Kathleen; Jenon

## Continuing Prayers for:

Jim; Daphne; Rosemary O.; the Hentchel family;  
Pat; Claire; Sandy; Rob & Sherry; Cheri; Jane;  
Shannon; Jim; Mel; Wayne; Diana N.; Jack; Ashley;  
Raynella; Ed & Jean; Kim E.; Joe; Grace;  
Virginia; Betty Anne; Janey; Johnny; and Karen H.

## For our Vestry leaders:

Class of 2025: Lisa A., Donna B., Diane V.K.

Class of 2026: Drew H., Dawson H., Jenny L.

Class of 2027: Bev B., Karen B., Mark H.

Officers: Jenny L., Diane V.K., Dawson H., Sally L.

## Also for the Diocesan Prayer List:

For the Mission of the Church (BCP 816)

For Travelers (BCP 831)

## September Birthdays & Anniversaries

September 3 Liz Berg  
September 3 Virginia Perry  
September 4 Vicky & Dave St. John  
September 6 Cheryl Riggen  
September 9 Debbie & Mel Hines  
September 13 Betty Anne Haldi  
September 14 John McCoy, II  
September 18 Cindy Hentchel  
September 22 Julie Arledge

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time together, as well as childcare. To register, please click on the button below and bring cash or check for registration.

Note: Resurrection will gladly reimburse your registration fee; please submit a reimbursement form which is available in the church office.



# For Your Calendars

## THIS WEEK

Sept 14	8:00 am	10:30 am	
Acolyte	Andrew Wilkinson	Mark Smith	Altar Guild: Donna Bye
EM	Judy Hadjian	Bonnie Smith	Flower Guild: Dianna Stimpson
Lectors	Diane Van Koughnett	Keytha Graves	Organist: Judy Moyer
Ushers	Cathleen Wilkinson	Andy Hadian & Garry Lucas	Guest Flautist: RaNaye Dreier
Coffee Hour	Cal Van Koughnett	Jackie Buttinelli	Celebrant &
Video	n/a	Ann Murphy	Preacher: Marc Strong
Counters	n/a	Andy Hadjian & Ginny Tolbert	Monday Volunteer 9/15 Donna Bye

## NEXT WEEK

Sept 21	8:00 am	10:30 am	
Acolyte	Donna Bye	Monty Ross	Altar Guild: Donna Bye
EM	Andrew Wilkinson	Judy Egan	Flower Guild: Betty Martin
Lectors	Peggy Rogers	Tony Adams	Organist: Judy Moyer
Ushers	Jerry Ploeger	Drew Hawley & Keytha Graves	Celebrant: Rebecca Bridges
Coffee Hour	Erllys Ploeger	Elizabeth & Steve Botica	Preacher: Mark Smith
Video	n/a	Bob Cantine	Monday Volunteer 9/22 Donna Bye
Counters	n/a	Alice Anderson & Jean Cardwell	

### Next Week at Resurrection

Monday, September 15  
 12:00 p.m. - Friendship Kitchen  
 7:00 p.m. - AA (*open meeting*)

Tuesday, September 16  
 1:30 p.m. - Pinecone & Bow Tying

Wednesday, September 17  
 9:00 a.m. - Deadline for Parish Tidings  
 or bulletin submissions

Thursday, September 18  
 9:30 a.m. - Prayers & Squares  
 1:30 p.m. - Pinecones & Bow Tying

Saturday, September 20  
 9:00 a.m. - Resurrection Men  
 9:30 a.m. - Daughters of the King

Sunday, September 21  
 8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, spoken  
 9:15 a.m. - Communication Committee  
 10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, choral  
 Mark Smith, preacher

### COMING UP ...

Tuesday & Thursday, September 23 & 25  
 Pinecones & Bow Tying

Sunday, September 28  
 Holy Eucharist, spoken  
 Holy Eucharist, choral  
 4 Paws Food Collection

**Check your Parish Tidings  
 for upcoming details!**

*Email [office@episcopalloudon.com](mailto:office@episcopalloudon.com) by Wednesday  
 at 9 a.m. to have your ministry or committee's  
 activities added to the parish calendar.*

*To contact our priest, the Rev. Dr. Rebecca  
 Bridges, please email [rector@episcopalloudon.com](mailto:rector@episcopalloudon.com)  
 or call the church at (865) 986-2390. For  
 pastoral needs after hours, call (865) 242-9240.*

# TODAY'S ART



## **The Rescue (1866)**

Richard Ansdell, British Painter, 1815 - 1885

Oil on canvas, 68.6 x 148.6 cm

The Lytham St Annes Art Collection, Lancashire  
Alderman and Mrs J H Dawson on the occasion of  
thanksgiving for victory, May 1945, 72, Courtesy of  
the Lytham St Annes Art Collection of Fylde Council

This parable centres around a question: 'What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray?' (Matthew 18:12). The way the question is asked seems to imply an affirmative answer, but this painting reveals that a 'yes' is by no means self-evident. From the danger to the rest of the flock, to the immense physical and practical burden, to the potential economic loss, such a calculation makes no sense, and yet to Jesus such a venture is clearly worth it.

Jesus' evident loyalty to pursuing the one sheep illuminates the care of the Divine Shepherd, whose love is not utilitarian, efficient, or disinterested. Indeed, the trouble seems to increase his joy: 'he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray' (Matthew 18:13). The Shepherd delights most in his troublesome sheep.

*References:*

<https://thevcs.org/parable-lost-sheep#how-much-trouble-sheep-worth>

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